

## Teacher Guide with Historic Notes

Fort Sumter - Charles Pinckney - Fort Moultrie - Liberty Square Visitor Center

# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Fort Sumter National Monument  
1214 Middle Street  
Sullivan's Island, South Carolina 29482  
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Fort Moultrie  
1214 Middle Street  
Sullivan's Island, South Carolina

Charles Pinckney National Historic Site  
1254 Long Point Road  
Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina

## WITH YOU IN MIND

**This Teacher's Guide is designed as an informative tool for South Carolina educators. The National Park Service values education and strives to help students and teachers learn the unique history of special places.**

**National Park Service staff and volunteers developed this Guide that connects the state curriculum standards to the NPS sites in the Charleston area. These sites include Fort Sumter, Fort Moultrie, the Fort Sumter Visitor Education Center at Liberty Square and Charles Pinckney National Historic Site.**

**We encourage you to apply any of the material found on these pages to plan visits or enrich and augment the materials you present to your students in the classroom. To review standards for grades 3, 4, 5, 8, and 11, please visit:**

**[http://www.myschools.com/offices/cso/Social\\_Studies/other\\_correlations.htm](http://www.myschools.com/offices/cso/Social_Studies/other_correlations.htm)**

### Table of Contents

<b>PAGE 2-</b>	With You in Mind, and Table of Contents
<b>PAGE 3-</b>	Charleston's rich history and importance in the South
<b>PAGE 4-</b>	The Slave Trade: How our black citizens reached our shores
<b>PAGE 5-</b>	Rice, Carolina Gold: How rice is grown
<b>PAGE 6-</b>	Rice Culture: African contributions and Gullah culture
<b>PAGE 7-</b>	Charles Pinckney: A brief biography
<b>PAGE 8-</b>	Pinckney's contribution to the Constitution
<b>PAGE 9-</b>	Fort Moultrie Time Line
<b>PAGE 10-</b>	The Battle of Sullivan's Island and hero Sgt. William Jasper
<b>PAGE 11-</b>	A day in the life of a United States soldier at Fort Moultrie before 1861
<b>PAGE 12-</b>	Fire power: Military technology in the 18th and 19th centuries
<b>PAGE 13-</b>	The Nation Catches Fire: Events that made the Civil War inevitable
<b>PAGE 14-</b>	Fort Sumter Under Fire: A time line from construction to the end of the war
<b>PAGE 15-</b>	Liberty Square: What it represents
<b>THE BACK COVER-</b>	Map with National Park sites marked, web sites and phone numbers



# Charleston

## A City that Deeply Influenced the Development of the South



**In the spring of 1670**, the first English settlers arrived in Carolina to find a thriving Native American population. This modest settlement became the city of Charles Town, one of the largest and most important cities in the thirteen colonies. Soon after the British arrived, a signal gun was manned on Sullivan's Island to warn of any approaching naval attack. The French, Spanish, and pirates were threats to the new settlement.

**Under the leadership** of the Lords Proprietors and later Royal Governors, immigration was encouraged. European settlers and skilled craftsmen were sought at first. As the plantation system grew, indentured servants and later African slaves arrived in the largest numbers. The port served as a gateway for thousands of European immigrants and captive Africans, and plantation owners from the Caribbean. Charles Town's practice of tolerance encouraged refugees of many ethnic backgrounds to seek shelter in the colony.

**Rice and indigo** were the crops that contributed to the city's golden years. These crops were well suited to the coast of South Carolina. The topography of the lowcountry was similar to that of the coast of West Africa where rice cultivation was a way of life. The colonial plantation system created a powerful merchant/planter class that came to dominate all aspects of political, social, and economic life. From the time of the Revolution through the end of the Civil War, prominent families like the Pinckneys, Draytons, Middletons, and Rutledges influenced the development of the area.

# The Slave Trade

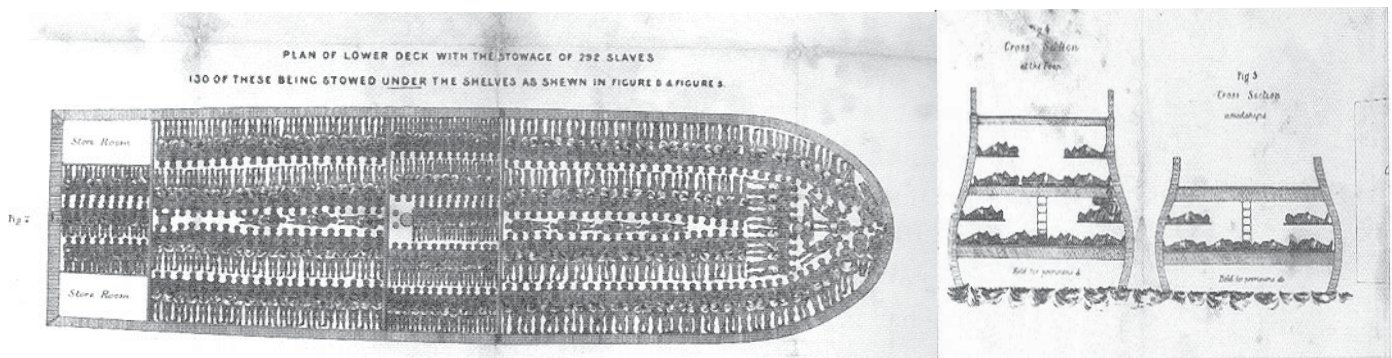
## The Story of Slavery in Europe and America

**The Atlantic Slave Trade**, an international trade in enslaved Africans, can trace its beginnings to 1441 in Portugal when traders returned with 12 slaves from the east coast of Africa. Prince Henry of Portugal saw the evil of enslaving other human beings but rationalized it by reasoning that when the slaves accepted Christianity their souls would be saved. There were ready buyers. In 1442 his ships returned with 235 African slaves. The sellers were the prince's African trading partners and local rulers.

**Slavery was well established in Africa** but slaves there could usually look forward to freedom after a period of time, enjoy social mobility, and know that their families would not be broken up. By the middle of the 1500s the international slave trade had nearly disappeared because of the lack of interest in Europe. This changed because a growing European market for sugar, rice, tobacco, indigo, cotton, and forest products could be supplied by colonies in the Americas and the Caribbean. Africa was a source of labor and market for European goods, such as guns and ammunition.

**The first African slaves** to arrive in the British colonies were brought to the struggling colony of Virginia in 1619. Dutch traders delivered the unwilling cargo one year before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth. The indentured labor force that accompanied the Virginia settlers disliked the terms of their employment and Native Americans would not submit to such an arrangement. Africans did not present the same problems. As time went on many of the English colonies enacted laws that made it difficult for most black slaves to escape the bonds of slavery. As the southern colonies became an agricultural export area, the demand for field workers grew and the business of supplying these workers became a major economic activity.

### Ships were Specially Built to Carry Human Cargo



**The Middle Passage** may have been the most terrifying chapter in the story of the international slave trade. Sea captains and traders crammed their African cargo into ships for the 8 week journey across the Atlantic. Death rates of 25% were common from disease and bad treatment, and crews often suffered as badly. The British tried to regulate the slave trade and the illustration above shows how the cargo was supposed to be arranged on the slave ship, "*Brookes*."

**To prevent sickness and diseases** from entering the port, newly arriving immigrants from the Mediterranean and captured Africans were held for a time at quarantine stations known as *pest houses* or *lazarettos*. From 1707 to 1799, Sullivan's Island had housing for 200 to 300 individuals who might remain there and receive treatment from 10 to 40 days. Other health measures were enacted into law and new arrivals were often held on ships off the coast. New York and Philadelphia, both major ports, also had such facilities.

**After America won its freedom**, Great Britain's government no longer profited from the slave trade. In 1807 the British abolished the international slave trade and the United States followed in 1808. Spain followed in 1820 and Brazil in the 1840s. A reduced illegal trade continued to the 1860s.

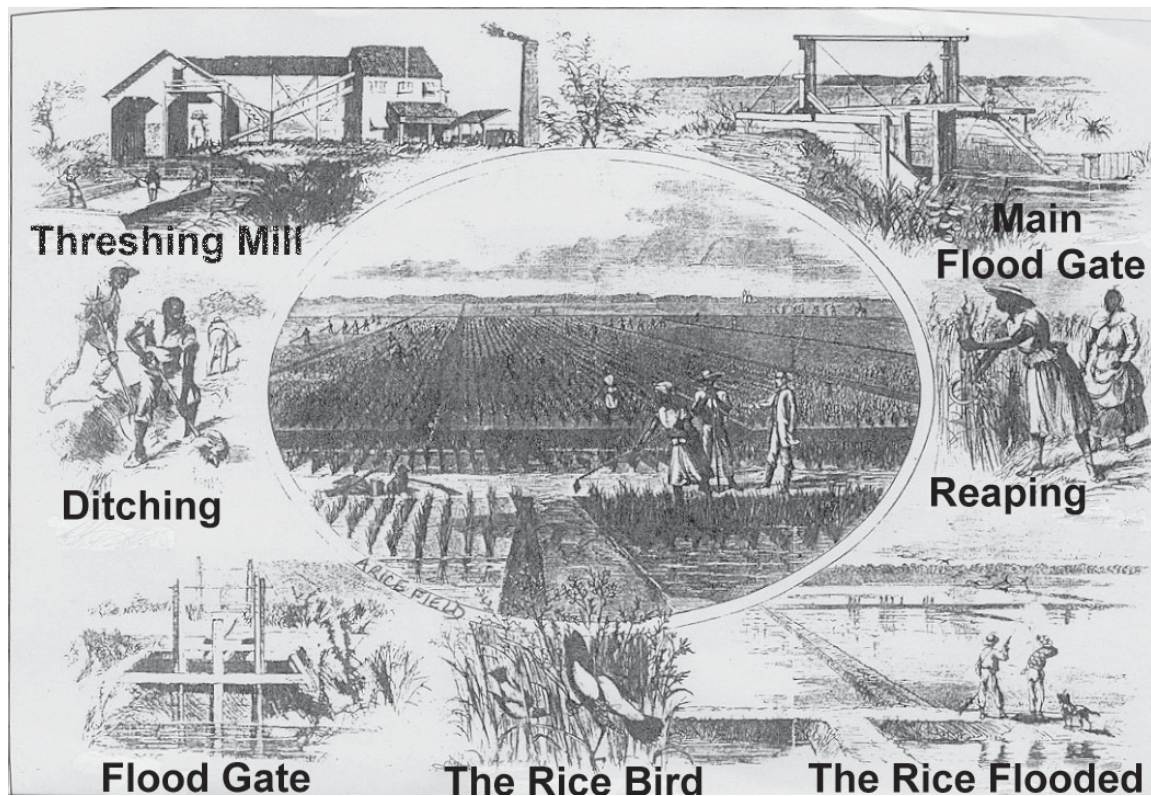


# Rice

## Carolina Gold

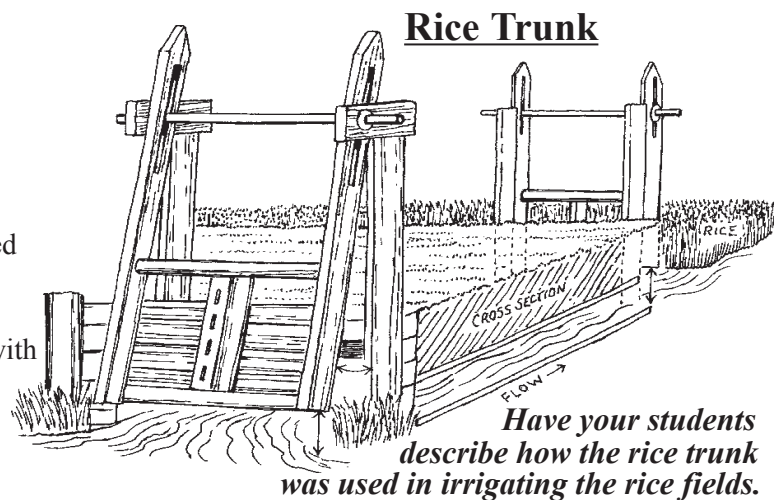
**The origin of South Carolina's rice cultivation** is woven with many stories. It is known that by 1700, rice was a significant South Carolina crop. Between the years 1820 and 1860, 40 to 100 million pounds of rice were exported annually. In 1835, a record 128 million pounds of rice were exported. Rice exports made Carolina one of the wealthiest colonies in the New World.

**A tidal system was used to irrigate the rice fields.** A series of *locks* or rice *trunks* were manually opened when the tide was high and as the tide fell they would close and keep the fields flooded. Skillful operation of these *locks* or *trunks* allowed fresh water to cover the fields at the proper time and prevented salt water from damaging the crop and ruining production. The drawing shown below was pictured in *Harper's Weekly* magazine of January 5, 1867. It was titled, "Rice Culture on the Ogeechee".



### The rice growth/harvest cycle

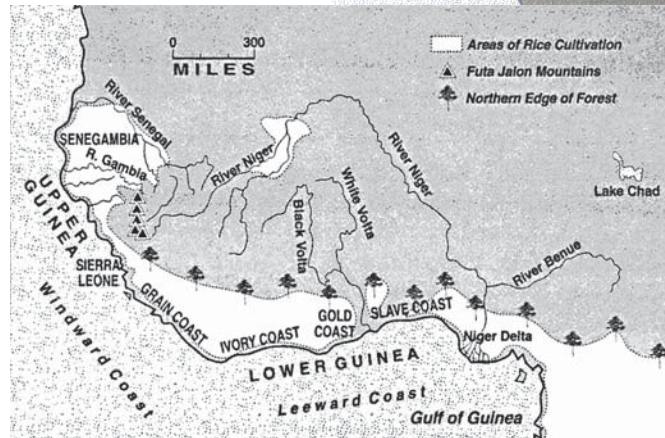
1. Burning fields to destroy remains of last crop.
2. Plantings, one in early March, the second by early April.
3. Fields flooded until seeds sprout, then water is released.
4. 2nd flooding to drown weeds. Water is released gradually.
5. Dry growth for about 40 days; daily weeding.
6. Harvest-flows flood the fields every 10 days with fresh water.
7. Gathering of the rice starts in late August and continues through early September.



# RICE CULTURE

**A significant number of Africans were imported to South Carolina as early as 1690.** By 1708 there was a black majority in the colony. The West African coastal area known as the Windward Coast or Rice Coast is similar in many ways to the coastal area of South Carolina. Captive Africans were enslaved and brought to the lowcountry for their labor and because they were skilled growers of rice in their homeland. Their knowledge, expertise, and hard work made the rice industry possible here.

**Elizabeth Allston Pringle, the wife of a prominent plantation owner,** wrote the following in her journal, *Chronicles of Chicora Wood*. “Only the African race could have made it possible or profitable to clear the dense cypress swamps and cultivate them in rice by a system of flooding the fields from the river by canals, ditches, or floodgates, drawing off the water when necessary, and leaving these wonderfully rich rice lands dry for cultivation.”



**A work system known as the TASK system** was used on the rice plantations. Once slaves had completed their day’s work or *tasks*, they were free to work in their own gardens, fish, or hunt. Many of them learned new skills and acquired possessions and money from their individual efforts.

**Descendants of those Africans have remained in this area** and the coastal sea islands. They are known today as the Gullah or the Geechee. Their language is a unique mixture of African tongues and English. Their beautiful heritage is alive today. Read the story below in Gullah and English:

## The Gullah Tongue

Den, Fox staat fuh talk. E say to eself,  
e say,  
“Dish yuh Crow duh ooman, enty?  
Ef a kin suade  
um fuh talk, him haffuh op’n a mout,  
enty?  
En ef a op’n a mout, enty de meat  
fuh drag out?”  
Fox call to de Crow: “Mawnin tittuh,” e  
say.  
“Uh so glad you tief da meat fum  
de buckruh,  
cause him bin fuh trow-um-way  
pan de dog .  
E mek me bex fuh see man do shishuh  
ting lukkuh dat.”  
Crow nebbuh crack e teet! All time  
Fox  
duh talk, Crow mout shet tight pan de  
meat, en e yez cock fuh lissen.

## The English Meaning

Then, Fox started to talk. He said to  
himself, he said,  
“This here Crow is a woman, not so? If I  
can persuade  
her to talk, she has to open her  
mouth, not so?  
And if she opens her mouth, isn’t it  
true the meat will drop out?”  
Fox called to the Crow: “Morning  
girl,” he said.  
“I am so glad you stole that meat  
from the white man,  
because he would have thrown it  
away to the dog .  
It makes me vexed to see a man do  
such a thing as that.”  
Crow never cracked open her teeth!  
All the time Fox was talking,  
Crow’s mouth was shut tight on  
the meat, and her ears were cocked  
to listen.

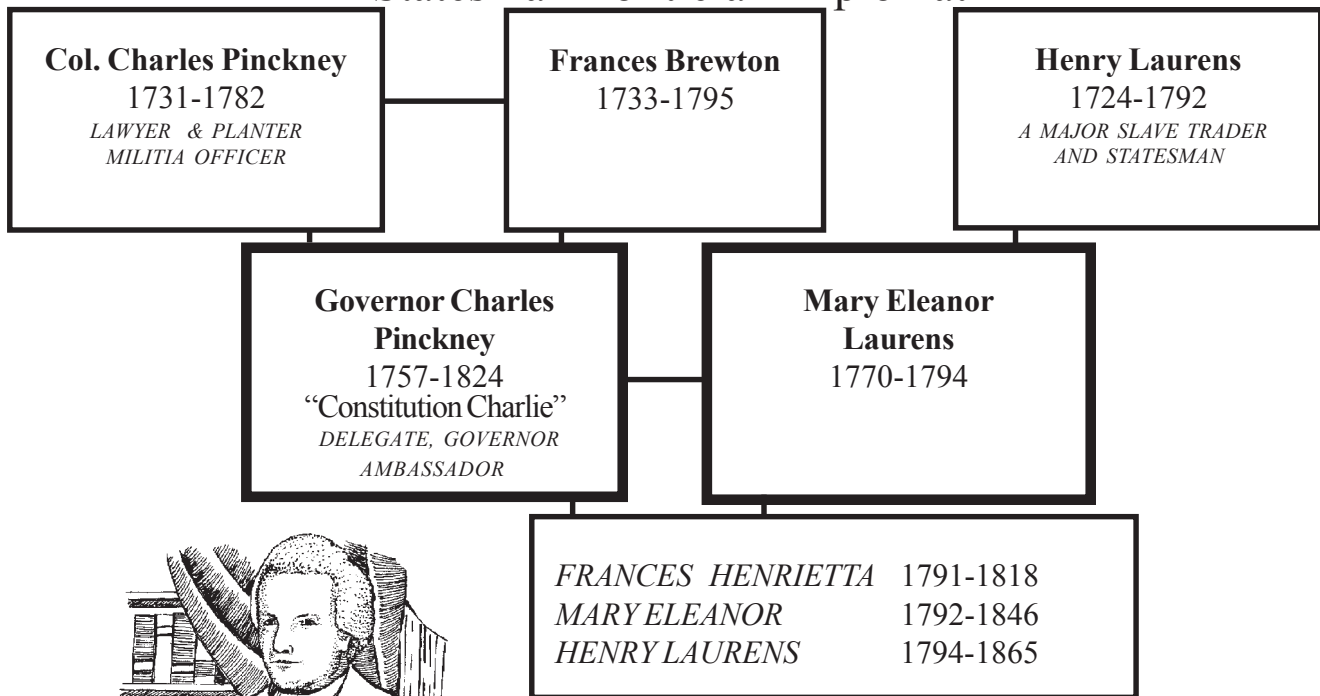
**Gullah  
Sweetgrass Baskets**  
are hand sewn and  
popular with visitors.





# CHARLES PINCKNEY

## Statesman-Politician-Diplomat



**Charles Pinckney was born** on October 26, 1757 to a prominent Charleston family. Dr. David Oliphant was his teacher in his early years. Unrest in the colonies caused Pinckney to forego a university education in London. He joined the South Carolina Bar after studying law with his father.

**Charles Pinckney entered public service** at the age of 21 in 1779. He represented Christ Church Parish in the General Assembly and was a lieutenant in his father's regiment during the American Revolution. When the British captured Charleston in the spring of 1780, he and his father were among those held as prisoners of war. To gain his freedom and keep his estate (including Snee Farm) Charles Pinckney's father had to swear allegiance to the crown.

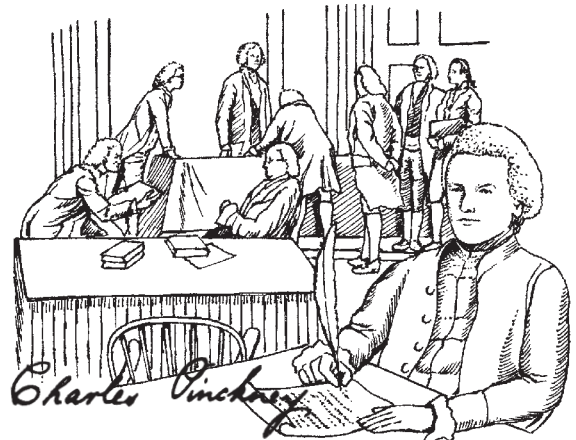
**Four years after our nation won its independence** from Great Britain, Pinckney was sent to Philadelphia in 1787 as one of four delegates from South Carolina to the Constitutional Convention. This was a uniquely productive period in his life. An independent thinker, Pinckney submitted plans to the Convention without consulting the other three South Carolina delegates. His writings were never debated because they were not presented in a timely manner, but many of his ideas are part of this great document. Upon his return to South Carolina he worked tirelessly to have the Constitution ratified.

**Pinckney served four separate two year terms** as governor of South Carolina: 1789 to 1791, 1791 to 1792, 1796 to 1798, and 1806 to 1808. His political orientation changed during this time period. Born to a family that allied itself with the rich aristocratic lowcountry interests, he came to believe that the rural interest championed by Thomas Jefferson's "Democratic-Republicans" better represented the citizens of the new nation. Pinckney supported Jefferson's candidacy in the 1800 presidential election. With Jefferson's victory, Pinckney was appointed ambassador to Spain (1801 to 1805). Pinckney was successfully involved in the purchase of the Louisiana Territory from France, but he was not able to convince the Spanish crown to cede Florida to the United States. He returned to South Carolina to continue his forty year service to our nation and South Carolina. Pinckney died on October 29, 1824 and was buried at St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Charleston.

# THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

## Charles Pinckney's Contributions

**The Constitutional Convention** was held at the Pennsylvania State House (Independence Hall) in Philadelphia during the spring and summer of 1787. Attending were fifty-five delegates representing 12 of the 13 states. South Carolina's representatives were Pierce Butler, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, John Rutledge, and Charles Pinckney. During the convention, three plans were presented as possible frameworks for the Constitution: the Virginia Plan (the Randolph Plan), the New Jersey Plan, and the Pinckney Draught (draft). James Madison, a delegate from Virginia, dominated much of the convention's proceedings.



**Though James Madison is known as the “Father of the Constitution,”** time and research have attributed at least 24 points found in the Constitution to Charles Pinckney. His draft was presented late in the afternoon, never debated on the floor, and even his fellow delegates were unaware of the plan. Nevertheless, he earned the nickname “Constitution Charlie.”

### Pinckney's Contributions

- *The Congress shall consist of a House and a Senate*
- *House and Senate shall each select its own officers and rules of proceedings*
- *Neither branch shall adjourn for more than a specific number of days without consent of the other*
- *Only the House shall have the power of impeachment*
- *The Congress shall have the power to coin money*
- *The Congress shall have the power to establish Post Offices*
- *The Congress shall have the power to call forth the aid of the militia*
- *The Congress shall have the power to raise an army and a navy*
- *The Congress shall establish the standard of weights and measures*
- *The provision relating to the time of election for lower house members*
- *A single chief executive called President, shall be established*
- *The President shall inform the Congress of the conditions of the nation (annual State of the Union address)*
- *The President shall commission all officers*
- *The President shall serve as the Commander-in-Chief of the Army and of the Navy*
- *The President shall have the power to convene the Congress under extraordinary conditions*
- *The President shall have the power to discontinue a session of the Congress on certain occasions*
- *No state shall keep troops or warships during peacetime*
- *No state shall coin money*
- *No state may enter into a treaty*
- *No state may establish interfering duties (tariffs)*
- *Full faith and credit between the states shall be established*
- *Privileges and immunities of citizens shall be established*
- *Criminals shall be surrendered between jurisdictions*
- *Interstate and foreign commerce shall be regulated by Congress*

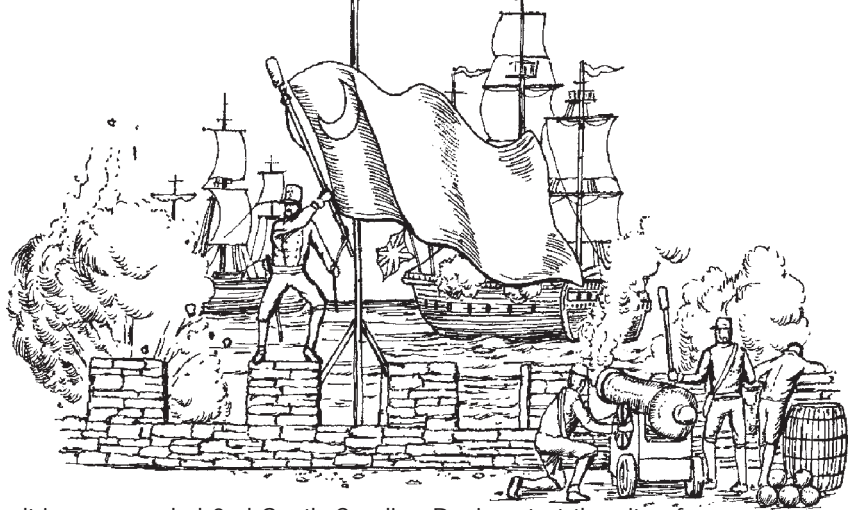


# FORT MOULTRIE TIME LINE

The Battle that Made it Famous

June 28, 1776

English forces expected an easy victory with their well trained and imposing naval fleet. The outnumbered Patriots, in a fort that was under construction, and with little ammunition, defeated the mighty British. This was one of the first successful battles of the American Revolutionary War.

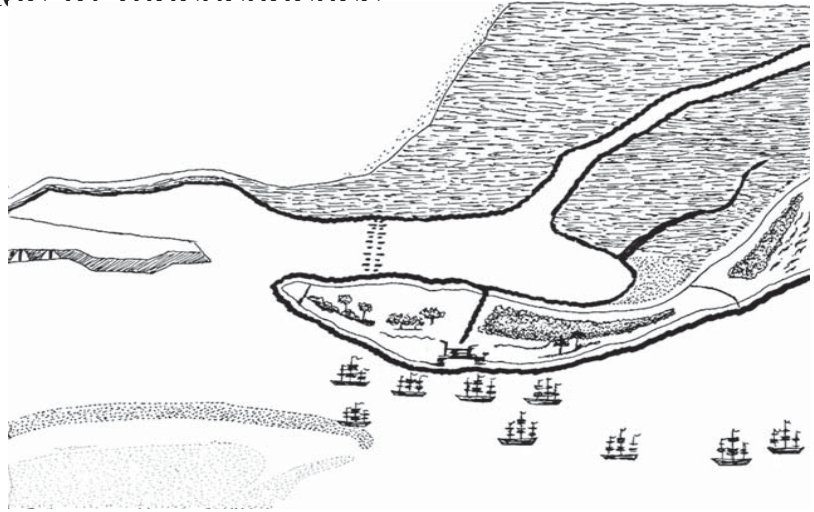


- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| March 1776     | Colonel William Moultrie commanded 2nd South Carolina Regiment at the site of an incomplete palmetto log fort on Sullivan's Island.             |
| June 28, 1776  | Moultrie and his men successfully saved Charleston from being captured by the British fleet. Later the fort was named in Col. Moultrie's honor. |
| 1780           | British returned and sailed fleet into the harbor.  |
| May 7, 1780    | Patriots surrendered Fort Moultrie.   |
| May 12, 1780   | Charleston fell into British hands. Charles Pinckney imprisoned on the ship <i>Pack Horse</i> .   |
| Dec. 14, 1782  | British evacuated Charleston. Patriots reoccupied Fort Moultrie.  |
| 1798           | Second Fort Moultrie built of earth and timber. Twenty other forts were built on the East Coast as the first system of seacoast fortification.  |
| 1804           | Second fort destroyed by hurricane.   |
| 1808-1809      | Third fort built of brick.  |
| 1812-1814      | The War of 1812.  |
| 1827-1828      | Edgar Allan Poe stationed at Fort Moultrie.   |
| Jan. 1838      | Seminole leader, Osceola, imprisoned at Fort Moultrie.  |
| Nov. 6, 1860   | Abraham Lincoln elected President of the United States.   |
| Dec. 20, 1860  | South Carolina seceded from the Union.  |
| Dec. 26, 1860  | Major Robert Anderson evacuated Fort Moultrie and moved federal troops to Fort Sumter.  |
| April 12, 1861 | Fort Johnson fired first shot on Fort Sumter — the Civil War began.   |
| April 14, 1861 | Union garrison surrendered to General P.G.T. Beauregard.  |
| 1863-1865      | Federal and Confederate batteries in Charleston harbor engaged in active bombardment.   |
| February 1865  | Confederates abandoned Charleston and harbor forts as General William T. Sherman reached Columbia.  |
| April 9, 1865  | Civil War ended.  |
| 1872 - 1876    | Fort repaired and modernized.   |
| 1886           | Endicott system of concrete and steel batteries were designed.  |
| 1892-1906      | Endicott Batteries constructed on Sullivan's Island. (Jasper- Bingham- McCorkle- Lord)  |
| 1914-1918      | World War I.  |
| 1941           | United States entered World War II.   |
| 1944           | Harbor Entrance Control Post (HECP) constructed.  |
| 1947           | Army deactivated Fort Moultrie.   |
| Sep. 7, 1960   | Fort Moultrie's ownership transferred to the National Park Service.   |

# THE BATTLE OF SULLIVAN'S ISLAND

## Prelude to Independence

**Charleston was vital** to the South Carolina economy. It was the most important southern port and richest city during the colonial period. When the British realized that the rebellion was serious, they sent troops to South Carolina to protect their financial and political interests. The Tories, colonists who supported the British crown, were needed for Britain's military efforts to be successful.



**On June 4, 1776**, Admiral Sir Peter Parker arrived off Charleston's coast with a fleet of nine warships armed with nearly 300 guns and many support ships. Major General Sir Henry Clinton gave him support by landing 2,200 British regulars on Long Island (Isle of Palms). Informants said that Fort Moultrie was not completely built, which made it an easy target. The British also thought the channel between Sullivan's Island and Long Island was 18 inches deep. In reality, it was 7 feet deep and had strong cross currents. Clinton's plan to place his men on Long Island and wade across the channel was doomed from the beginning.

**Colonel William Moultrie** commanded the Patriot forces on Sullivan's Island. They built the fort using palmetto logs, sand and brick. Major General Charles Lee, the commander of Charleston, didn't have much faith in Col. Moultrie or the fort that he called a "slaughter pen." South Carolina's President (Governor) John Rutledge wanted to maintain the fort while Lee wanted to abandon it. On June 28, 1776, Col. Moultrie met with Col. William Thompson on the northern tip of Sullivan's Island and saw Sir Parker's fleet approaching. Moultrie rode back to the fort and prepared his men for battle.

**General Clinton's** soldiers spent the day firing across the inlet at Thomson's troops on Sullivan's Island, because they couldn't get through the treacherous waters. At the other end of Sullivan's Island, several of Sir Parker's ships became stuck on a shoal (where Fort Sumter now stands). The British fired over 7,000 cannonballs at the fort, but the palmetto logs and sand absorbed much of the impact and little damage was done. The Patriot gunners aimed all of their shot carefully for maximum effect and to conserve their small supply of ammunition. The British fleet was forced to retreat. This was one of the first decisive victories of the American Revolution.

**During the bombardment**, the fort's flagstaff was shot away causing the crescent flag of the 2nd SC Regiment to fall outside the fort. Sergeant William Jasper approached Col. Moultrie saying, "Colonel, Don't let us fight without our flag." Moultrie replied, "How can you help it? The staff is gone!" Jasper answered, "Then, sir, I'll fix it to a halberd and place it on a merlon off the bastion, next to the enemy." Outside the protection of the fort, Jasper retrieved the flag, attached it to a sponge staff and placed it on top of the wall shouting, "God save Liberty and my country forever!" This unselfish brave act inspired the soldiers to continue fighting with great determination. After the battle, President (Governor) Rutledge presented Jasper with a silver handled decorated sword, and an officer's commission. Modestly, he declined saying, "I am not fit to keep an officer's company, I am but a sergeant." Jasper never learned how to read or write. On October 9, 1779, Sergeant Jasper died during the siege of Savannah. He was trying to plant a flag on a British position, when he was killed by enemy fire.

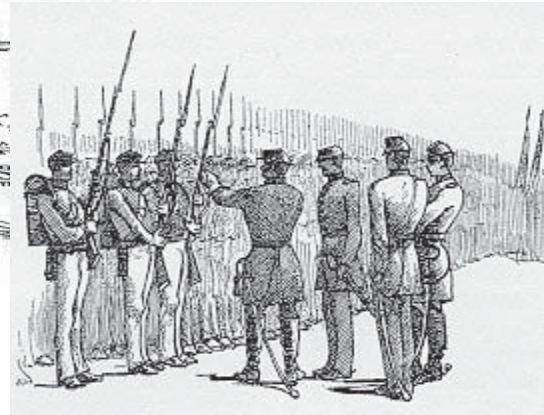


# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SOLDIER

Fort Moultrie before 1861



Roll Call



Inspection

After completing your training you are assigned to Fort Moultrie. As a soldier you are on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Monday through Saturday your day at the fort would usually go like this:

**5:00 a.m.** - A bugler will sound (play) “reveille” on a bugle. Everyone must get up, get dressed and prepare (wash your face, and shave) for morning roll call. In the winter “reveille” is played at 6:00 a.m.

**5:15 a.m.** - The bugler sounds “assembly” and everyone (except those who are sick or on guard duty) falls in for roll call. When the sergeant calls your name, you answer, “Here, sergeant!” After roll call, announcements, assignments, and instructions for the day are issued. Once this is completed you are dismissed.

**6:00 a.m.** - The next call is “breakfast call.” You will have one hour to eat.

**7:00 a.m.** - “Fatigue call” is played telling the soldiers to prepare for inspection. You must make sure your musket, uniform, bunk, and barracks are clean.

**8:00 a.m.** - After inspection, the bugler plays “drill call.” For the next four hours, until 12 noon, you will practice all of the things you learned at the Camp of Instruction.

**12:00 noon** - “Dinner call” is sounded and you have an hour for lunch.

**1:00 p.m.** - “Drill call” is sounded again. Until 4:00 P.M. you will drill, and drill, and drill.

**4:00 p.m.** - You will spend this time cleaning your equipment, the barracks, the cannon, and the fort.

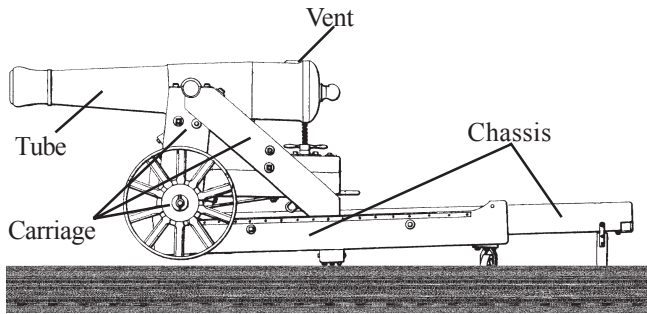
**6:00 p.m.** - “Attention” is called to give you a few minutes to get ready for roll call. Next the bugler plays “assembly” and everyone falls in for dress parade roll call. This means that everyone is in full uniform, carrying a musket, and wearing all equipment. After answering roll call, the guard duty assignments are made and you are dismissed.

# Fire Power

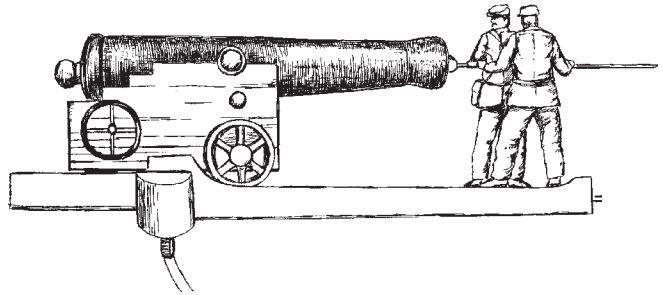
## Manning and operating the cannons at Fort Moultrie and Fort Sumter

### Columbiad

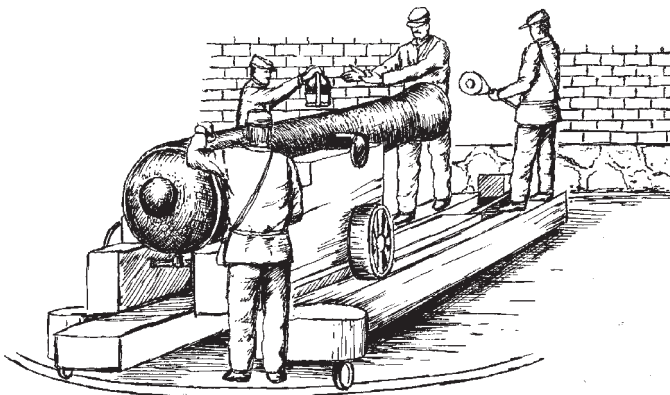
Columbiad artillery *pieces* were in use for many years. Gun crews of 5 to 8 men were required to fire an average of 12 *rounds* in an hour.



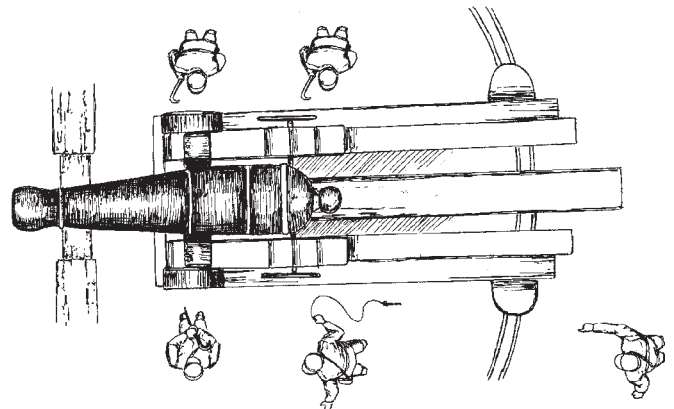
Two men work together at the muzzle to sponge the bore and then ram home the charge and the projectile.



At the front of the cannon the projectile is delivered for loading. At the back of the gun the soldier is fingering the vent.



The gunner in the lower right corner takes a position that allows him to see the effect of the firing.



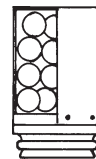
Shot



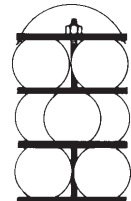
Shell



Case Shot



Canister



Stand of Grape

### The Ammunition

*Smoothbore* cannons fired five types of projectiles. Solid iron *shot* was used against targets, like a fort or ship. *Shells* were hollow inside and filled with black powder. When the cannon fired, a timed fuse was ignited that burned down to the powder inside the *shell*, making it explode. The primary purpose of *shells* was to set things on fire, like buildings or ships. *Case shot*, similar to shells, were filled with small lead balls (called shrapnel) and a small charge of black powder. The fuse with a *case shot* was timed so the projectile exploded in the air to kill and wound enemy soldiers. *Canister* and *grape shot* turned the cannon into an oversized shotgun. *Canister* was generally used against enemy soldiers, while *grape* was generally used to fire at ships.



# THE NATION CATCHES FIRE

## Events that Made a War Between the States Inevitable

*The Declaration of Independence* states, “Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it, and to institute new Government.”

*The Constitutional Convention of 1787* was attended by four South Carolina delegates. Their participation and views helped to maintain the institution of slavery in the United States. The state’s delegates were: Charles Pinckney, Pierce Butler, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, and John Rutledge. Rutledge said, “South Carolina and Georgia can not do without slaves.” John Rutledge said, “Whether the southern states shall or shall not be parties to the union depended on the union’s view of slavery.”

*The Missouri Compromise of 1820* established a boundary between the free states of the north and the slave states of the south. Charles Pinckney, the only founding father in the House of Representatives at that time said that the most important issue was “keeping the hands of the Congress from touching the question of slavery.”

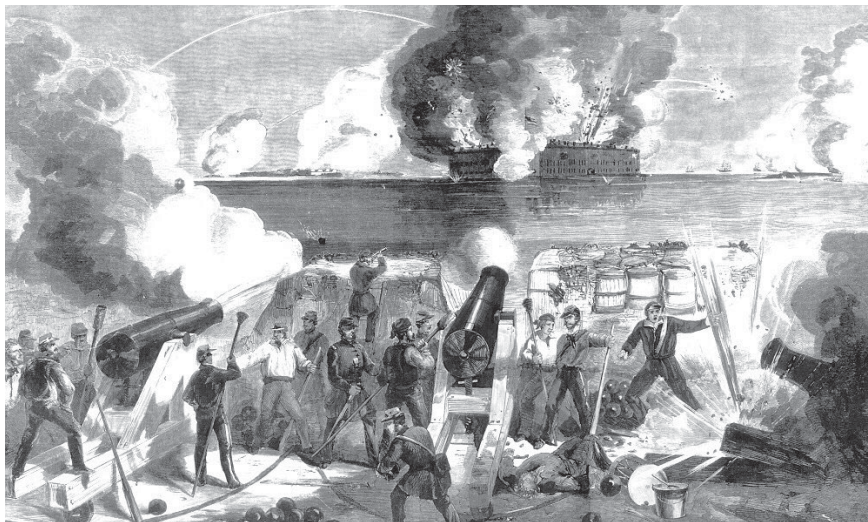
*The Denmark Vesey* slave rebellion plot was crushed in Charleston in 1822. South Carolinians believed that agitation and support from northern abolitionists was influencing southern institutions and thinking.

*The Nullification Crisis of 1832 and 1833* set the tone for secession in South Carolina. The state denounced certain federal tariffs as unconstitutional and threatened to leave the union if these laws were not changed.

*The Dred Scott Decision of 1857* ruled the Missouri Compromise unconstitutional because it infringed on property rights. The U.S. Supreme Court also ruled that blacks had no rights of citizenship at the federal level.

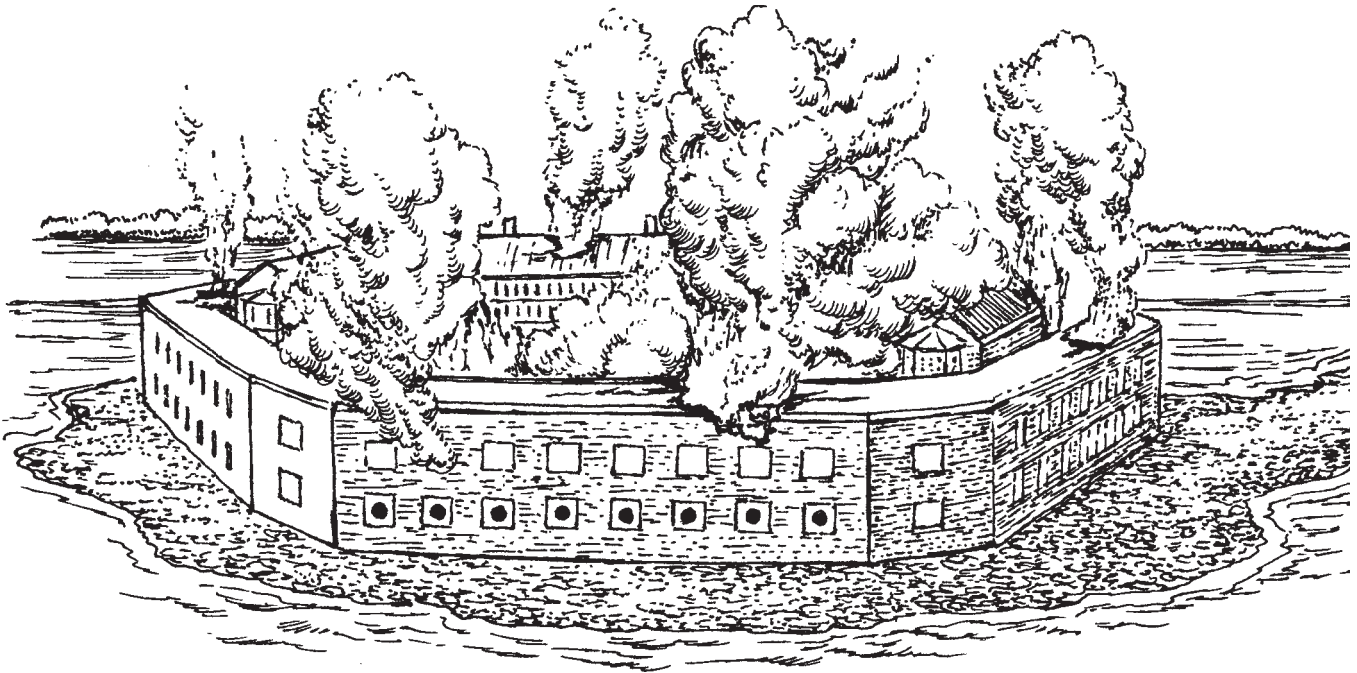
*Abraham Lincoln’s candidacy in 1860* had South Carolina’s radicals up in arms because of his views on the slavery issue. They said that the state would secede from the Union if he became the next president.

*South Carolina seceded* on December 20th, 1860 with the following resolution by its ruling body: “We, therefore, the People of South Carolina, by our delegates in Convention assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, have solemnly declared that the Union heretofore existing between this State and the other States of North America, is dissolved, and that the State of South Carolina has resumed her position among the nations of the world, as a separate and independent state.” **In less than five months the first shots of the Civil War were fired on April 12, 1861.**



# FORT SUMTER UNDER FIRE

## A Time Line



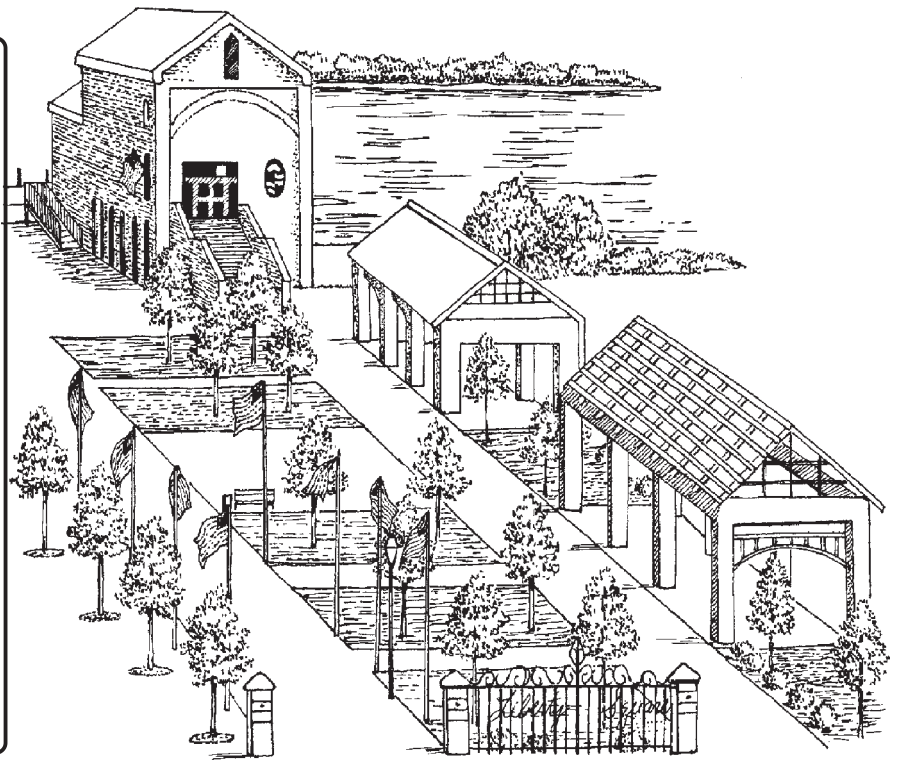
- 1829**                      **Construction of Fort Sumter begins.** Thirty-one other forts are built as part of the "Third American System" of coastal defense.
- Nov. 6, 1860**           **Abraham Lincoln** is elected President of the United States.
- Dec. 20, 1860**           **South Carolina** secedes from the Union.
- Dec. 26, 1860**           **Major Robert Anderson** evacuates Fort Moultrie and moves his Union forces to Fort Sumter.
- April 12, 1861**        **At 4:30 A.M.** *Confederate forces at Fort Johnson fire on Fort Sumter and the Civil War begins!*
- April 14, 1861**        **Union garrison surrenders** to General P. G. T. Beauregard.
- April 7, 1863**           **Rear Admiral Samuel Dupont** commands nine Federal warships in an assault on Fort Sumter. The battle lasts 2 1/2 hrs. The Confederates fire 2,209 rounds. The ironclads fire 154 rounds, but only 34 hit the target. The USS Keokuk sinks off Morris Island.
- Aug. 17, 1863**        **The first major bombardment** of Fort Sumter begins.
- Sept. 8, 1863**        **400 U.S. sailors and marines** assault Fort Sumter in small boats. This failed attack lasts 20 minutes.
- Oct. 26, 1863**        **Second major bombardment** begins.
- July 7, 1864**           **Third major bombardment** begins.
- Feb. 17, 1864**        **Confederates abandon Charleston** and the harbor forts when General William T. Sherman captures Columbia that day.
- April 9, 1865**        **The Civil War ends.**



# LIBERTY SQUARE

## Fort Sumter Visitor Education Center

**This building** is one part of Fort Sumter National Monument, a unit of the National Park Service. Within its walls are exhibits that outline the history of Charleston up to the firing on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861. The Civil War began that day.



**Liberty Square** is the park setting that surrounds the new **Fort Sumter Visitor Education Center**. An ornamental gate invites you into this open space. The gate was designed by renowned blacksmith Philip Simmons. The Square includes landscaped outdoor garden rooms overlooking the Cooper River, protective shade shelters and the Septima Clark Fountain. Scattered throughout the park are stone markers inscribed with quotations designed to trace the evolution of liberty in America from the Constitutional Convention in 1787 to the Civil Rights Movement of the 20th century. In this quiet setting, the visitor can reflect upon the meaning of liberty as seen through the eyes of Americans from different periods of history and walks of life.

**Interpreting liberty** is the broad theme connecting Charleston's national park sites. Educational programs can be built upon seven primary themes.

*They include Charleston as a:*

- **Social, political, and economic gateway**
- **Focal point for military activity**
- **Place of contradiction**
- **Region built on slavery and plantation agriculture for more than two centuries**
- **Study in national and social freedom**
- **Place of community**
- **Region of significant landscape evolution**

**Liberty Square serves as a gateway** to the National Park Service sites in the area. Fort Moultrie is the scene of one of America's first successful battles with the British in 1776. Charles Pinckney National Historic Site interprets the life of a framer and signer of the United States Constitution. Pinckney's contributions helped to define the liberties that we enjoy today. Fort Sumter lives in our memory as the site of the first shots of the Civil War in 1861. America's greatest challenge began with the firing on the fort and her most tragic conflict, a brutal civil war, refined the principles of our new nation.

# WHERE TO FIND US

**For educational tours, please call ahead to make reservations.**

**Tour times vary depending on the season.**

**Our sites are open daily except for December 25th and January 1st.**

**The hours are 9:00 A.M. to 5 P.M.**

**Fort Sumter National Monument** includes Fort Sumter, Liberty Square, and the Fort Sumter Visitor Education Center. Liberty Square is located in downtown Charleston at the foot of Calhoun Street on the Cooper River. For more information you may call (843) 577-0242 or visit us at [www.nps.gov/fosu](http://www.nps.gov/fosu).

**Fort Sumter Tours** transports visitors to Fort Sumter by boat. Call them at (843) 722-BOAT (2628) for reservations and rates.

**Fort Moultrie** is located on Sullivan's Island at 1214 Middle Street. From Charleston take U.S. 17 N (business) to Mt. Pleasant and follow the signs for SC 703. At Sullivan's Island turn right onto Middle Street. The fort is located 1.5 miles from the intersection. For information call (843) 883-3123 or visit us at [www.nps.gov/fomo](http://www.nps.gov/fomo).

**Charles Pinckney National Historic Site** is located at 1254 Long Point Road in Mt. Pleasant, SC. You may reach us from U.S. 17 or I-526. For additional information, please call (843) 881-5516 or visit us at [www.nps.gov/chpi](http://www.nps.gov/chpi).

